





## COAL UNDER SYDNEY.

(From the *Post-Mail Gazette*, July 3.)

Since the publication of my letter on the above subject in your paper of the 24th instant, a seam of coal has been discovered within two miles of the Circular Quay, and my informant states it to be several feet thick, and within 70 feet of the surface. Of course, real payable coal may be 700 feet or 1000 feet deeper, but speaking nothing geologically, nor scientifically, I venture to give the upholders' notion of the coal formation, and, so far, arguing from analogy, the almost absolute certainty of coal not only being beneath, but a much less depth than hitherto assumed—for all the statements about the probable position of the coal are assumptions only; and even were they the logical deduction of purely scientific reasoning, based on the original theory that Sydney is the centre of a basin, the coal would be 1000 miles apart, being nearly Wollongong and Newcastle. I think we ought reasonably take exception to them, when we find that large seams are known to exist within twenty or thirty miles—both north and south, apparently proving that there are a series of upheavals, and that as the greatest dip between them is probably not more than one mile, the depth of the greatest depth of the dip between them is probably more than half of what it was assumed to be when it was calculated as from points much farther apart.

I hear also there is a payable seam on a creek near George's River, and which cannot be more than twelve miles in a direct line from the Post Office. I am told by Mr. Alexander Berry, who was a remarkably well-read, shrewd, clear-thinking man, always well-poached, the author of the great depth coal was assumed to be under Sydney, and told me himself, whilst standing in his own verandah, that after making all possible calculations and alluviums he was certain that it was not more than from 700 to 1000 feet beneath the sea-level when he stood, and that not at least 200 feet above the sea-level, we could not have a bore above 300 feet if it, he was correct.

There are several seams, I am told, in the range

near Wollongong, the highest of which is about 1600 feet.

If this be the greatest upheaval, and the

seams at Coal Cliff the northern depression—then

the same general dip

continues to Sydney.

One of the highest authorities in geological matters said last week that a seam would be got about 1000 feet, and the seams at 800 feet; and a practical mining manager, brought up in the Newcastle district, and who has been lately examining the stratification and lay of the rocks here, confidently asserts that from 800 to 1000 feet will be the outside depth we shall have.

Of course, the idea is no new one; and several attempts were made years back to try it out, and probably only failed because no one ventured to go below 200 or 300 feet; and, although I hear there is a bore-hole at Danginburn for an Artesian well of 1600 feet, still, as we are not looking for coal, they may very probably have passed through it ignorantly.

Since the publication of my letter of the 24th, a great quantity of information has been voluntarily brought me, and gentlemen of acknowledged ability and good business sense have expressed very favourable opinions of the scheme; and rightly or wrongly the general impression also seems to be that the depth has been vastly exaggerated. Now, on the one hand, the consideration of the enormous benefit likely to accrue in case of success, the work is worth while stamping. And if the Government grant me the necessary asked for, I have no hesitation in saying I will attempt to make it, and made in such a way as to give it every chance of success.

R. ADAMS.

## EDUCATIONAL REFORM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Six.—In his letter in your issue of the 27th, Dr. Barry refers to the religious character of the reading books used in the Public schools as a security for the religious character of the children attending them. I know that it is in some cases. I am in a large Public school and hear the teacher commenting on salvation through Christ Jesus in a very clear and powerful way; but in most cases the Scripture lessons are simply read through without comment, and nothing more done than to ask the few questions printed at the end of each, and there are good books for children in all cases. Now, on the other hand, the teacher that, as a general rule, the feelings of children are not affected by what they merely read through as a task without hearing any comments to put it home to them; and it follows that, as a general rule, we cannot look to the religious character of the reading books as a sufficient security for religious instruction.

Dr. Barry looks to the ministers of religion to give such instruction. Well, about sixty children are as many as any one teacher can teach thoroughly at once, so that it would take all the ten schools in a fortnight to give one lesson each to 600 children, and some ministers would have even a longer time. Now, instruction once a fortnight, even joined with that of the Sunday-school, is far from being sufficient. In fact, the religious character of the large schools in which the secular instruction is equal to that in the Public schools, while the withdrawal of aid would entail increased expenditure to supply their place, it would afford no gain whatever in educational results, and would produce a terrible disability in the religious instruction, besides leading to the result of which the Bishop of Sydney has warned us, that the Roman Catholics would establish intensely Denominational schools of their own all over the country.

As regards the little schools, as far as I have seen, the difficulties of classification, of pleasing the parents, and of raising funds for improvements and repairs—will be an amount of worry and labour both to the parents and all concerned with them that would produce much more anxiety than any other considerations; and further, I am able to confirm Dr. Barry's assertion as to these schools actually depriving children of religious instruction in some instances.

There are three Denominational schools where I live. The number of Church of England children attending them during the last four years has been steadily increasing, and, as far as I have seen, they are forty-five or more always in attendance at the Freebairnian and the Roman Catholic more centrally-placed schools, derived by regulations of the Council of all religious instruction; for ministers of other Denominations are not allowed to give religious instruction in those schools, and their teachers are not allowed to give religious teaching to the children of other Denominations.

There are three schools that weaken the cause of the maintenance of the large ones, and the friends of Denominational education would act wisely to let the small schools go, so that they may not imperil the maintenance of the large ones by holding on to them too long.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

R. S. WILLIS.

Fraser's Garrison—Sydney, United States, June 23. An appalling catastrophe occurred last night. A strawberry festival was being held at the parlour of the Central Baptist Church, when, without any warning, the floor gave way, about half past 6 o'clock, precipitating the room full of people into the story below. The parlour on the floor above and the room underneath were both full. The alarm was immediately given, and the men hurried to the scene. The streets around the church had become a scene of confusion. Thousands were gathered there asking their friends, waiting for the dead, and attending to the injured. The entire police force and fire department of the city were called out and took charge of the work of rescue. The church was surrounded. The broken timber was hauled up with difficulty. The walls of the church did not fall, but are seriously damaged. The church is comparatively a new one. A few minutes before the floor gave way it trembled so that many persons left the room, fearing an accident, which had been predicted by many. The accident, however, was the giving way of the joists that supported the floor. The job was on both sides of the room—a cross street, the middle of the floor was supported by iron rods from the roof. The shock gave way, pulling the ceiling and roof down upon the people, and precipitating them into the room. H. W. White was architect of the building; Dicks and Coleman did the carpenter work. The work was exceedingly slow, as it had to be done in the dark, and it was feared every moment that the walls would fall in.

## THE DIVISION ON HOME RULE.

## THE COMET.

(From the *Daily News*, July 3.)

The division that was taken in the House of Commons upon Mr. Butt's motion for going into committee on the Constitutional relations between Great Britain and Ireland did not adequately represent the views and weight of public opinion. It is a salutary lesson to the partisans of Home Rule ministered in full force, and probably of about one hundred and thirty members who failed to be present when the question was put from the chair, not more than two or three were likely to have given even a hesitating vote in favour of the motion to open up the question of national unity. The motion could be strongly rejected by an overwhelming majority not naturally induced many members, whose votes would otherwise have swelled the roll of that majority, to think that their presence at the division could do little good and their absence little harm. In this belief there was, we think, a grave element of error. On ordinary political questions independent of the ministerial rank and those of individual party to decide whether an unparliamentary "whip" is necessary or expedient, and for merely putting Mr. Butt's proposal aside this morning's vote of 465 against 61 may be thought amply sufficient. But when the very foundations of the Constitution are assailed every member of the Legislature surely rests under a heavy personal responsibility to his constituents to give the best information he can as to the Constitutional or foreign crises to suppose that because he has not taken the trouble to vote he is indifferent to the matters at issue. The misrepresentation of plain political facts has done much to foster Nationalist illusions in Ireland, and the division list of this morning will give the Home Rule party the opportunity to tell the Irish people that, though they were beaten after a hard fight, they had more than twice the votes to one, there was left outside the ranks of their opponents an unclashed mass of opinion which declined to pledge itself to the rejection of what is represented to be the demand of the Irish people. This is now the only argument that the parliamentary representatives of the Home Rule movement can adduce in support of an agitation to which the chief of all the great Constitutional parties have given their hearty assent. 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## FUNERALS.

**T**HE FRIENDS of Mr. WILLIAM PLUMB are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of his late beloved DAUGHTER, Harriet Maria, to move from his residence, 10, Gloucester-street, on **Wednesday** AFTERNOON, at 3 o'clock, for the Necropolis SHAVING and CO., 719, George-street; 120, Oxford-street.

**T**HE FUNERAL of HYAM, only son of ELIAS and PHOEBE COHEN, will leave the Mortuary, Hay-street Station, Midway, by the 2:15 p.m. train, for Glebe's Creek, THIS DAY, Tuesday, 1st September.

**T**HE FRIENDS of the late Mr. WILLIAM HAWKINS are respectfully invited to attend his Funeral, to move from his residence, 10, Gloucester-street, on **Wednesday** AFTERNOON, at 3 o'clock, for the Cemetery, at Parramatta, G. KINSELLA and SONS, Oxford-street, and George-street.

**T**HE FRIENDS of Mr. SAMUEL JONES are invited to attend the Funeral of his deceased DAUGHTER, Emily A., to move from his residence, Mary-street, HILL, on **Wednesday** at half past 2 o'clock, St. John's Cemetery, W. J. BROWN, Mortuary, 21, Oxford-street; 321, George-street South, Hayley Bridge.

## AMUSEMENTS.

**B**LOOMING, THE HERO OF NIAGARA, will make his THIRD, FOURTH, and FIFTH GRAND BRIEF ASCENSION on **Wednesday**, September 2nd, FRIDAY, " 4th, MONDAY, " 7th.

**RAILWAY EXCURSIONS.** The Commissioners for Railways have arranged to run EXCURSION TRAINS during the Chevalier's performance.

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR ONE WEEK** will be issued at the stations to Sydney at SINGLAR FARE FOR THE DOUBLE JOURNEY.

See the Commissioner's own advertisement on this subject.

**PRICE OF ADMISSION.**

Seats within the enclosure, £1; children under 10 years, 1s; General Promenade, 5s; children under 10 years, 1s.

Tickets for the first class may be had in advance at the **RAILWAY STATION**.

The public are respectfully requested to be provided with the correct change for their tickets to prevent confusion at the door.

No resumption.

Letters or communications to be addressed to J. P. BLONDIN, or O. P. NIADU, Secretary.

By order of the Chevalier BLONDIN.

H. P. LYONS, Agent.

**S**PENCER'S ROYAL POLYTHONIC, 221, Pitt-street. Open daily from 10 to 10.

**S**YDNEY LABOURING MEN'S BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

**G**RAND DEMONSTRATION, the formation of the above ASSOCIATION, consisting of SEVEN HUNDRED MEMBERS, will be celebrated at a GRAND DEMONSTRATION, to be held at the EXHIBITION BUILDINGS, and to commence at 10 o'clock, **Wednesday**, September 5th, 1874.

TENDERS are invited for the privilege of supplying Spiritual Liques and other refreshments, at the EXHIBITION BUILDINGS, either exclusively or separately, on the above date. Tenders to be sent in to JOHN MACMAHON, Secretary of Demonstration Committee, Oriental Hotel, Pitt-street N.

**H**AY MARKET RESERVE.

THE (Linen) FURNISHING, September 1, 1874.

Continued and unabated success.

OF THE

ASIAN CIRCUS.

EVERY EVENING,

BY THE

ROYAL TUCSON TROUPE.

JAPANESE.

In all number 30 Artistic, Male and Female.

ADMISSION:

Chair, 5s; Box, 10s; Pit, 1s.

Doors open at 7 o'clock, commencing precisely at 8.

FIRST MID-DAY MATINEE.

SATURDAY NEXT.

FOR SCHOOLS, FAMILIES AND CHILDREN.

T. KING, Director.

W. BURTON, Agent.

**S**CHOOL OF ARTS.

Successful and unparallelled success. Last night of the GREAT AMERICAN SPHYNX.

GREAT AMERICAN SPHYNX.

AND THE STAR ALLIANCE COMPANY.

And on **THURSDAY** next, September 3, first appearance in Australia.

Mrs. MIRA,

in her marvellous and astounding performance of the ASIAN BOX MYSTERY.

EGYPTIAN SECRET.

FRIDAY, 2nd, Comedy Benefit to

Mr. TOM MARGETTS.

Million prices to usual.

**A**GRAND MASONIC BALL will be held at the Freemasons' Hall, York-street, on **SEPTEMBER 4, 1874.**

IN AID OF THE MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

By permission of

R. W. B. A. T. H. HOWARD, D.G.M., E.

J. G. FARRELL, M.A., L.L.B.

W. W. SEDGWICK, F.G.M., E.C.

and M. C. Campbell JOHN WILLIAMS, Dist. G. Superintendent, E.M.A.

At which

Mr. Balfour for HERCULES and Lady ROBINSON and have signified their intention of being present.

Gentlemen's Tickets, 21s.

Ladies' Tickets, 12s.

Tickets obtainable through any member of the Committee, for which entry application is necessary, as only a limited number will be issued. Applications will also be received by the District Grand Secretary, at his office, York-street, between the hours of 10 and 12.

Masonic Ball Committee meet every evening, at 7.30.

Mr. CHAS. BEAVER, Hon. Secretary.

**H**AY MARKET THEATRE GREAT AND GLORIOUS SUCCESS.

THIS EVENING.

THE WIDOW OF SOPHIE.

THE WILLOW COUPLE.

Mrs. JULIA MERTON.

HARRY JERDAN.

HARRY JERDAN.

Stalls, 2s; the boxes, half-price.

**S**T. CATHERINE'S, Waverley.—A SALE of WORKS OF ART, AND A LECTURE ON THE HISTORY OF THE ENDEAVOUR FUND of the Clergy Daughters' School.

TO-MORROW and THURSDAY, 2nd and 3rd September, in the Church Society's House, Phillip-street.

Contributions kindly offered may be sent to the Diocesan Registry, 107, Phillip-street.

J. S. BARKER, Hon. Secretary.

**A**USTRALIAN JOCKEY CLUB.

HANDBIKE SPRING MEETING,

6th, 10th, 11th, and 12th SEPTEMBER, 1874.

First Day, Saturday, 6th SEPTEMBER.

THE HANDBIKE RACE, to start at 1.15 p.m.

THE TRIAL STAKES, to start at 2 p.m.

THE DARTY STAKES, to start at 3 p.m.

THE SPRING STAKES, to start at 4 p.m.

THE EPSOM HANDBIKE, to start at 4.45 p.m.

SECOND DAY, Sunday, 10th SEPTEMBER.

THE SHORTS, to start at 1.15 p.m.

THE SPRING MAIDEN STAKES, to start at 2 p.m.

THE LADIES' HANDBIKE, to start at 3 p.m.

THE GREAT METROPOLITAN STAKES, to start at 4 p.m.

THE SQUATTERS' STAKES, to start at 5 p.m.

THE SYDNEY HANDBIKE, to start at 5 p.m.

CHARGES FOR ADMISSION.

To the Course, each person, 1s.

Adults, 1s; children, 1s.

Postage, 1s; horse, 6d.

Entrance, 1s; carriage, 6d.

To the Grand Stand and Sodding paddock, gentlemen, 2s; ladies, 1s; children, 1s.

Postage, 1s; horse, 6d.

By order,

T. S. CLIBORN, Secretary A. J. C.

## ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.

Third representation of the great drama, THE GREAT CROWN, or THE SIEGE OF PARIS, founded upon the greatest war of modern times, THE GREAT FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR.

Stamped success of the celebrated actress, Miss MAY HOWARD, in her life-like impersonation of GABRIELLE LE BRUN.

THIS EVENING, Tuesday, 1st September, 1874, will be repeated.

THE GENEVA CROSS, or THE SIEGE OF PARIS.

GABRIELLE LE BRUN, Mrs. MAY HOWARD, supported by Miss Emma Austin and Mr. F. Belton (especially Miss Emma Austin, Mrs. Collier, Joyce, Poole, Simmonds, and GOTCH, Sydney; and by order of all bookings).

TO-NIGHT, GENEVA CROSS, or THE SIEGE OF PARIS.

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